



Dialog Tag Language  
Guide and Reference  
Technical Upgrade

Operating System/2  
Programming Tools  
and Information  
Version 1.2/1.3

91F8685



**First Edition (December 1990)**

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## About This Book

This book, as well as the other books in the upgrade package, contains programming information that is new to or different from the information in the *IBM® Operating System/2® (OS/2®) Programming Tools and Information Version 1.2* library (part number 6024929). In addition, information from the *OS/2 Programming Tools and Information Version 1.2 Technical Update* (part number 64F1705) is included in this upgrade package.

The upgrade describes features added by the OS/2 Version 1.3 product, and amends some of the information that was published with OS/2 Version 1.2.

This book is a companion to the *Version 1.2 Dialog Tag Language Guide and Reference*. **Only those chapters of the Version 1.2 book that are changed by the Version 1.3 product are included herein.** The chapter numbers and titles are the same as those in the Version 1.2 book. As a convenience, the beginning of each chapter in this book provides a summary of changes for that chapter.

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## Who Should Read This Book

This book is for application designers and programmers who are using the components of the *IBM OS/2 Version 1.2/1.3 Programming Tools and Information Technical Upgrade* package. The reader is assumed to be familiar with the services of OS/2.

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## Chapter 5. Application Panel Fields

### Summary of Changes

New	Updated	Section Title
	✓	Other Data Field Attributes
	✓	Data Columns
	✓	Defining Selection Lists

---

### Other Data Field Attributes

On page 5-13, add the following attribute and description after the **AUTOCLR** attribute and description:

#### **FONT**

This attribute allows you to specify the font used for the entry field of the data field. If you specify **SYSTEM** as the font value, the system proportional font is used. If you specify **SYSMONO**, the system monospaced font is used. The default, **SYSTEM**, is used if no value is specified.

---

### Data Columns

On page 5-24, add the following attribute and description after the **SELWIDTH** attribute and description:

#### **FONT**

Specifies the font used for the entry field of the data fields.

On page 5-24, add the following before the last paragraph:

The **FONT** attribute specifies the font used for the entry field of the data field. If you specify **SYSTEM** as the font value, the system proportional font is used. If you specify **SYSMONO**, the system monospaced font is used. The default, **SYSTEM**, is used if no value is specified.

---

### Defining Selection Lists

On page 5-27, replace the next to the last paragraph on the page with the following:

In the preceding markup, the **SELLST** and **SELCOL** tags are used to define the selection list. To indicate the font type for the data displayed in the selection list, specify the **FONT** attribute on the **SELCON** tag. The two types of fonts are **SYSMON** or **SYSTEM** (the default).



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## Chapter 15. Tag Reference

### Summary of Changes

New	Updated	Section Title
	✓	ABC (Action Bar Choice)
	✓	CHOICE (Selection Choice)
	✓	PDC (Pull-Down Choice)
	✓	DTACOL (Data Column)
	✓	DTAFLD (Data Field)
	✓	LSTCOL (List Column)
	✓	SELCOL (Selection Column)

---

### ABC (Action Bar Choice)

On page 15-6, under **choice-description-text**, replace the first paragraph with the following:

This specifies the text that appears in the action bar. The text is limited to 80 bytes. You can use an M tag to identify a mnemonic character for the action bar choice.

---

### CHOICE (Selection Choice)

On page 15-32, under **choice-description-text**, replace the first paragraph with the following:

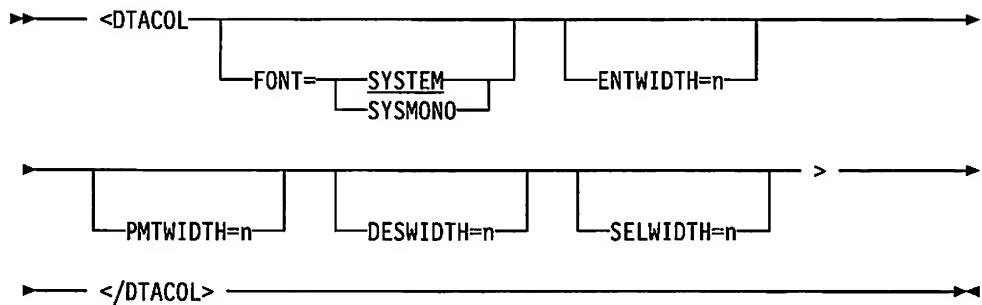
This indicates the text of the choice item. The maximum length is limited to 80 bytes. If you use a mnemonic (M tag) within the *choice-description-text*, the mnemonic character is emphasized with an underscore at run time and provides fast path selection for keyboard users.

---

## DTACOL (Data Column)

On page 15-58, replace the first six paragraphs (including the syntax diagram) with the following:

The DTACOL tag defines column widths for the data fields (DTAFLD) and selection fields (SELFLD) that are coded within a DTACOL tag.



### **FONT=SYSTEM | SYSMONO**

This attribute allows you to specify the font to be used for the entry field text. Specifying SYSMONO causes the system monospaced font to be used. Specifying SYSTEM causes the proportional font to be used.

### **ENTWIDTH=n**

The *entry-width* attribute specifies the width, in character units, of the data fields. The minimum width value is 1 and the maximum is 128. If any field defines the ENTWIDTH attribute, it overrides the value on this attribute.

**Note:** The ENTWIDTH attribute does not apply to nested selection fields.

### **PMTWIDTH=n**

The *prompt-width* attribute sets the width, in character units, of the prompts for data fields and selection fields coded within the data column. The minimum width value is 0 and the maximum is 128. If the prompt text has fewer character units than the field allows, the Dialog Manager supplies blanks to fill the remaining spaces. If any prompt contains more character units than the width you specify, that prompt will be word-wrapped to fit on multiple lines. If any field defines the PMTWIDTH attribute, it overrides the values on this attribute.

### **DESWIDTH=n**

The *description-width* attribute specifies the width, in character units, of the description text of the enclosed DTAFLDD tags. The minimum width value is 0 and the maximum is 128.

**Note:** That the DESWIDTH attribute does not apply to nested selection fields.

### **SELWIDTH=n**

The *selection-width* attribute specifies the space to be taken up by the selection-width part of the enclosed selection fields. This is useful for getting the choices in the selection to occupy the same amount of space. The minimum width value is 1 and the maximum is 128. If you specify the SELWIDTH parameter on the SELFLD tag, it overrides the value of this attribute.

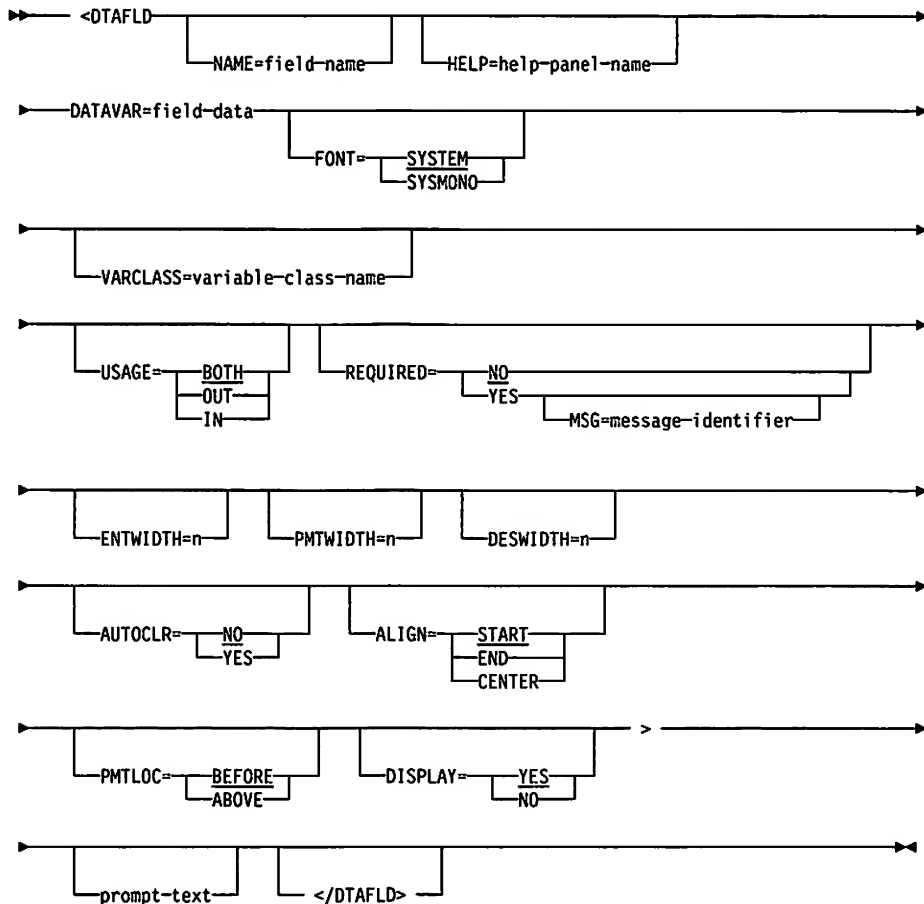
The selection part of a selection field includes either a check box or a radio button and the following text. For immediate-action selection fields, it includes the text and the surrounding pushbutton border.

---

## DTAFLD (Data Field)

Replace pages 15-62 and 15-63, with the following:

The DTAFLD tag defines an input field, an output field or an input/output field.



### **NAME=field-name**

Specifies the name of the field.

This name can be used:

- On the **DISPLAY** call to position a message pop-up window relative to the data field.
- On the **ADDDPOP** call to position a pop-up window relative to the data field.
- On the **DISPLAY** call to place the cursor in the data field.
- On the **PANEL** definition to place the cursor in the data field.

The name must have the following characteristics:

- 1 – 8 characters in length.
- The first (or only) character must be A – Z or a – z.
- Remaining characters, if any, must be A – Z, a – z, or 0 – 9.

Lowercase characters are translated to their uppercase equivalents.

**HELP=help-panel-name**

This attribute assigns a name to a help panel the Dialog Manager displays when the user selects help for this data field. If the user selects help on a data field, the help defined for the data field displays. If no help is specified for the data field, the extended help panel displays. If an extended help panel was not defined, a message is displayed stating that no help is defined. This attribute is valid only when USAGE=IN or BOTH. The *help-panel-name* must have the following characteristics:

- 1–8 characters in length.
- The first (or only) character must be A–Z or a–z.
- Remaining characters, if any, must be A–Z, a–z, or 0–9.

Lowercase characters are translated to their uppercase equivalents.

**DATAVAR=field-data**

A variable name that specifies the data in the field. The value coded must be a variable-name without using % notation. The DATAVAR attribute must be a scalar variable.

The maximum length of a data value that can be displayed or entered (with possible scrolling) within a DTAFLD entry is determined by the characteristics of:

- The explicitly specified VARCLASS, (if any) or
- The default VARCLASS for the DATAVAR.

**FONT=SYSTEM | SYSMONO**

This attribute allows you to specify the font to be used for the entry field text. Specifying SYSMONO causes the system monospaced font to be used. Specifying SYSTEM causes the proportional font to be used.

**VARCLASS=variable-class-name**

This attribute specifies the name of the variable class, defined using the VARCLASS tag, that overrides the default variable class referenced by the VARDCL that declared the data variable for this field. The VARCLASS specified must have the TYPE information that matches the TYPE information of the VARCLASS overridden.

If the VARCLASS specified does not have TYPE information that matches the type information of the overridden VARCLASS, a warning message is issued.

**USAGE=BOTH | IN | OUT**

The USAGE attribute indicates whether the field is for input-only, output-only, or both.

An entry field is a field on a panel into which the user can enter data. An input-only field does not initially display the value of the variable associated with the field. BOTH (input/output) field, however, functions much like an input-only field but the current value of the DATAVAR is also displayed in the entry field when the panel is initially displayed. Input fields can only be one line, but may be horizontally scrollable.

An output-only field simply displays the current value of the variable associated with the field. If the text does not completely fit into the width of the output field, the output is word-wrapped to the next line until all of the text is displayed. An output-only field cannot contain the cursor.

**REQUIRED=NO | YES**

This attribute indicates if the field requires input. The default is NO. If you set both REQUIRED=YES and USAGE=OUT, the compiler issues a warning message and REQUIRED=YES is ignored. This attribute is valid only when USAGE=IN or BOTH.

**MSG=message-identifier**

The MSG attribute specifies the identifier for a message that the Dialog Manager displays when the user does not complete a required entry (required attribute). If you do not specify a *message-identifier*, the Dialog Manager uses a default message.

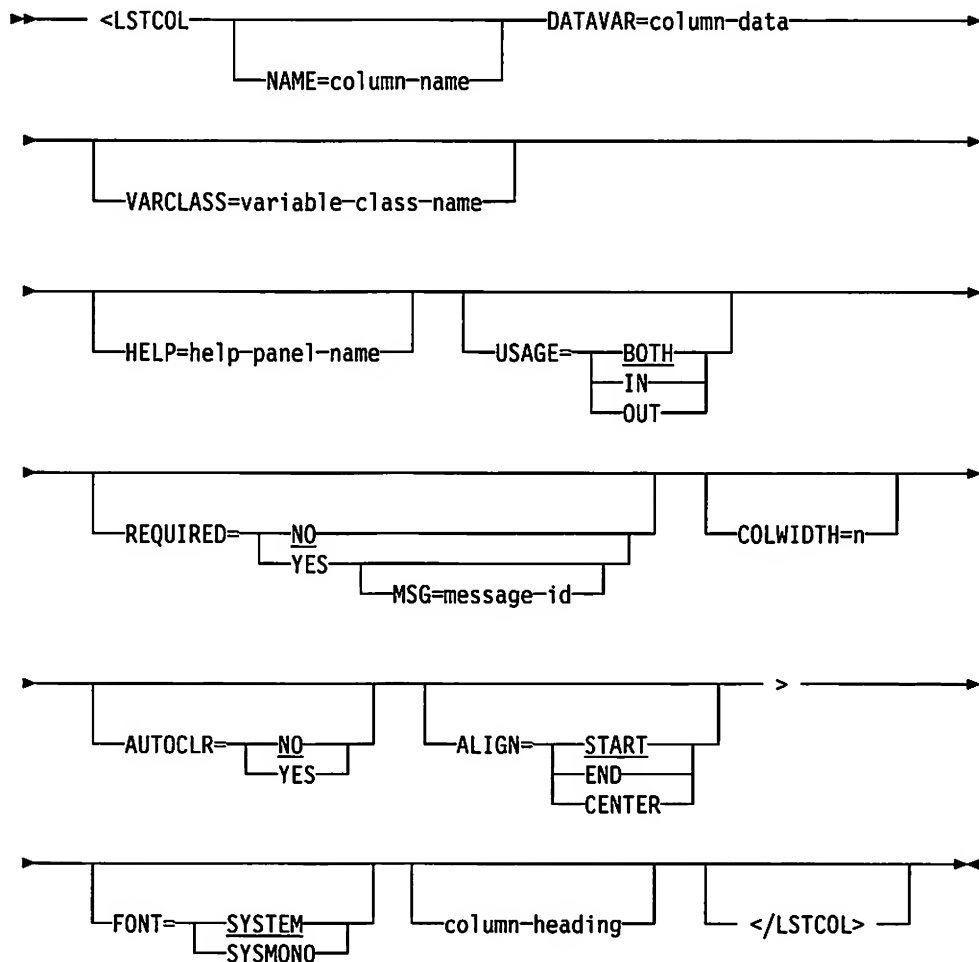
This attribute is valid only if REQUIRED=YES.

---

## LSTCOL (List Column)

On page 15-105, replace the syntax diagram with the following:

The LSTCOL tag defines a column within a list field.



On page 15-106, replace the information under **ALIGN=START | END | CENTER** with the following:



**ALIGN=START | END | CENTER**

The ALIGN attribute specifies how the data value is to be displayed in the list field.

If you specify the START alignment, the value is left-justified in the field. If you specify the END alignment, the value is right-justified and if you specify the CENTER alignment, the value is centered.

Output fields are not scrollable: however, input fields may be scrollable as necessary.

**FONT=SYSTEM | SYSMONO**

This attribute allows you to specify the font to be used for the entry field text. Specifying SYSMONO causes the system monospaced font to be used. Specifying SYSTEM causes the proportional font to be used.

**column-heading**

The text used for the title of the column. The column heading is centered above each column independent of the value of the ALIGN attribute. If the column-heading width and the COLWIDTH values are not equal, the greater of the two is used. If the column heading and the COLWIDTH attributes are omitted, the size of the column variable determines the width.

---

## PDC (Pull-Down Choice)

On page 15-146, under **pull-down-description-text**, replace the first paragraph with the following:

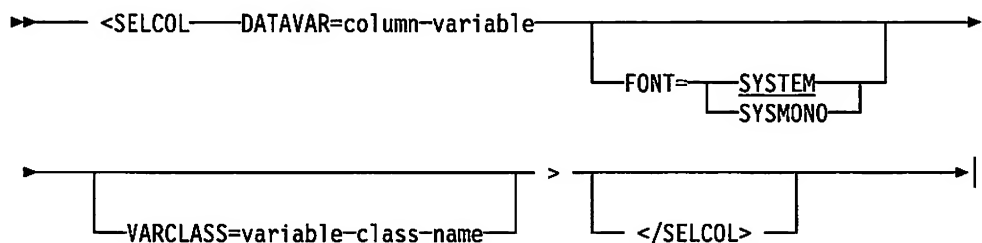
This indicates the text of the action bar choice pull-down. The maximum length of the text is 80 bytes.

---

## SELCOL (Selection Column)

On page 15-158, replace the first four paragraphs (including the syntax diagram), with the following:

The SELCOL tag defines the array of column data where each element of the array corresponds to an item in the selection list.

**DATAVAR = column-variable**

The DATAVAR attribute specifies the name of the array variable that contains the items that are declared on the VARDCL tag.

**FONT=SYSTEM | SYSMONO**

This attribute allows you to specify the font to be used for the entry field text. Specifying SYSMONO causes the system monospaced font to be used. Specifying SYSTEM causes the proportional font to be used.

**VARCLASS = variable-class-name**

This attribute specifies the name of the variable class, defined using the VARCLASS tag. This variable class overrides the default variable class referenced by the VARDCL that declared the data variable for this column. The VARCLASS specified must have the TYPE information that matches the TYPE information of the VARCLASS overridden.

If the VARCLASS specified does not have TYPE information that matches the type information of the overridden VARCLASS, a warning message is issued.



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IBM United Kingdom  
International Products Limited  
PO Box 41, North Harbour  
Portsmouth, PO6 3AU  
England

Printed in Denmark by  
J.H. Schultz Print a/s  
Copenhagen

